

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 13, 14, 16, and 39-45 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of December 21, 2004, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 22-24 are objected to because they depend from cancelled claim 15.

Accordingly, claims 22-24 have been rewritten as new claims 43, 44 and 45.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 2, 7, 13-14, 16, 22-24 and 39-42 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,908.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer disclaiming any portion of the patent term beyond that of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,908.

Nonelected Claims


The present amendment cancels claims 12 and 26-38 as being nonelected claims, Applicant reserving the right to present these claims in a later filed divisional application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

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Amd. dated March 17, 2005
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Respectfully submitted,

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